3rd September 1928]

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know whether it is under contemplation to leave this scheme to the Government of India as they will take it up if the cost exceeds more than a crore of rupees ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I want notice."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know on whom the cost of constructing these harbours will fall ultimately ? The preliminary expenses only have come to five lakhs and when the harbour is completed, may I know on whom the whole burden will fall ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" On the persons who spend the money."

Expenditure on the Harbour works at Cochin.

* 37 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage of development the Harbour works at Cochin stands and the expenditure up to date and estimated in future ;

(*b*) what has been the excess of expenditure over the estimates originally made and revised later on, on what grounds and in what circumstances ;

(*c*) whether any of the items of expenditure were due to the carelessness of the officer that had prepared the plans or were not foreseen by him at the time ; and

(*d*) if so, who is to be held responsible for the loss ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the report of the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief published with G.O. No. 286, Finance (Marine), dated 17th May 1928, which has been placed on the Editors' Table, and to the answer to question No. 1025 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 1st November 1927.

In the inner harbour, about 35 acres were reclaimed by the end of May to a height of seven feet or over about low-water mark. Reclamation of further areas was also in progress.

The actual expenditure on capital works up to the end of June 1928 was Rs. 44,37,754.

The reasons for the variations between the original and revised estimates were given in full in the answer to question No. 1025 referred to above.

Mr J. A. Saldanha :—" With reference to clause (*b*) of this question, may I know on whom the penalty will fall for this excess expenditure over the estimates ? It was said that there was some mistake by some officer ? Who is responsible for this loss ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my hon. Friend. I do not admit that anybody has made a mistake."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" It was admitted in answer to another question. I ask who is to be held responsible ? Will the hon. the Law Member make enquiries on this subject ? "